

the racial connexion is severed. In Germany, however, the Nazi Government decreed in 1933 that for purposes of the legal restrictions imposed on the Jews, Christians who had even only one Jewish grandparent should be included among them.

Jewish religion has suffered a severe blow in Soviet Russia. Here indifference to, or renunciation of, religion is not so much the result of assimilation, but rather of the war waged by the Soviet Government against all religions under the slogan "Religion is opium for the people". The Government has succeeded in alienating the majority of Jewish youth from the Jewish religion. The older generation still tends to adhere to its creed, but in view of the hostility shown to religion by the governing classes, they cannot act and their religion is doomed. Thus in the country whose Jews twenty years ago formed a solid bulwark of Judaism, the Jewish religion is now approaching destruction.

(3) WEAKENING OF THE LINKS OF COMMON DESCENT

AND FATE

In the eighteenth century the consciousness of a common descent and fate was strongly developed among the Ashkenazic Jews. Their relatively small numbers, their concentration in one country (Poland), and the

fact that they
married only among themselves, made them
into one big
cousinship. This was specially true of the well-
to-do class.
In the eighteenth century almost all the well-
known Jewish
families in Poland had common ancestors three
or four
generations back, and this consanguinity
resulted in a
strengthening of their sense of unity.
Persecuted and
without civic rights, they were all fellow-
sufferers; and a
common responsibility rested on them, as the
transgression
of a single Jew was liable to be visited on the
whole com-
munity.